

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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P R 131007Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4155

INFO DIA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 9673

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: CHARUNPHAN AND CHATCHAI ON THAI/US RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA  
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 7. FOLLOWING IS AN  
UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON THAI/  
US RELATIONS. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI  
CHUNHAWAN WAS ALSO PRESENT.

CHARUNPHAN:...WE MIGHT HAVE TO READJUST OUR  
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES....THIS READJUSTMENT  
DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL TURN OUR BACK ON EACH  
OTHER. QUIRE THE CONTRARY, BECAUSE IT IS OUR POLICY  
TO BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND WE CONSIDER THAT  
THE UNITED STATES IS A COUNTRY THAT IS A CLOSE FRIEND  
OF OURS BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS DATE BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES.

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BUT AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY, THE WORLD SITUATION IS CHANGING

VERY RAPIDLY, THEREFORE WE MUST READJUST OUR POLICY AND OUR RELATIONS TO MAKE THEM COORDINATE WITH CHANGES IN THE WORLD SITUATION. MY VIEW IS THAT READJUSTMENTS NECESSARY NOW ARE TO ENDEAVOR TO READJUST ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TRADE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MUCH BETTER RESULTS. WE HAVE STATED ALREADY THAT WE ARE IMPLEMENTING A POLICY TO BE SELF-DEPENDENT AND SELF-RELIANT. IN ORDER TO BECOME FULLY SELF-DEPENDENT AND TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WHICH ARE OUR CLOSE FRIENDS, IN REGARD TO TRADE WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO SUPPORT GOODS TO THOSE COUNTRIES. FOR INSTANCE, IN REGARD TO EXPORT OF TEXTILES TO THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE SENT A DELEGATION TO GO TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH IT ON THAT SUBJECT. IN REGARD TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SHOULD ANYBODY BE INTERESTED IN PUTTING A QUESTION ON THIS SUBJECT, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THEY OUGHT TO BE READJUSTED ALSO. THOUGH WE HAVE A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT, MUTUAL AID AND COOPERATION MIGHT HAVE TO BE READJUSTED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT IS NECESSARY AND WHAT IS NOT. I WILL GO INTO GREATER DETAIL ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES LATER. WE MUST CONSIDER READJUSTMENT IN THIS MATTER AND ENSURE THAT IT COORDINATES WITH THE WORLD SITUATION.

REPORTER: WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND?

CHARUNPHAN: WE HAVE MADE MANY STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT AND I BELIEVE THAT AT TIMES THE REPLIES I HAVE GIVEN MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AS SATISFACTORY AS DESIRED TO THE PERSONS PUTTING QUESTIONS. I THEREFORE WISH TO ASSERT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWALS WITH PROPER TIMING AND IN PROPER COORDINATION WITH THE SITUATION. I HAVE BROUGHT FIGURES OF WITHDRAWALS THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED ON AND ON WHICH STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED ALREADY. ACCORDING TO FIGURES ALREADY ANNOUNCED AND UP TO TODAY, 9 B-52 AIRCRAFT, 18 A-7 FIGHTER PLANES, AND 51 OTHER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN AND THERE WILL BE A REDUCTION OF 10,000 MILITARY MANPOWER SPACES WITHIN THE PRESENT YEAR....

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CHATCHAI: I WISH TO REACH UNDERSTANDING AGAIN IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWALS OF FORCES. I HAVE INFORMED YOU MANY, MANY TIMES THAT THE WITHDRAWALS OF MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND ARE DETERMINED BY THAILAND, NOT THE UNITED STATES. WE INFORMED THE UNITED STATES THAT IF THE SITUATION IS QUIET AND ORDERLY, TO CARRY ON WITHDRAWALS STEADILY. IN REGARD TO WITHDRAWALS, I WISH TO INFORM YOU

FIRST THAT AFTER MILITARY FORCES TALLING AS MANY AS 50,000 MEN COME AND ARE STATIONED HERE, WHEN WE SAY WE NO LONGER NEED THEM, ALL 50,000 MEN CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN AT ONCE AND THE VERY NEXT DAY. THAT IS UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY FACED IN TRANSPORTATION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND GOODS. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN A B-52 PLANE IS WITHDRAWN ITS GROUND CREW HAS TO BE WITHDRAWN ALSO, AND EACH B-52 PLANE HAS A GROUND CREW TALLING ABOUT 400-500 MEN (SIC). A U-2 PLANE, WHICH IS A HIGH ALTITUDE RECONNAISSANCE PLANE, HAS A GROUND CREW OF AS MANY AS ABOUT 2000 MEN (SIC). THEREFORE, WHEN SPEAKING IT IS VERY EASY TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT WITHDRAWN, SUCH AS SAYING WHY EVER DOES IT TAKE A LONG TIME TO WITHDRAW THREE AIRCRAFT ONLY? WHEN THESE AIRCRAFT ARE WITHDRAWN, THE NUMBER OF MEN IN GROUND CREWS THAT HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN SIMULTANEOUSLY ARE IN NO SMALL NUMBER.

AN EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE CITED IS THAT THE REDUCTION OF THE 10,000 MILITARY MANPOWER SPACES WILL MEAN THAT ABOUT 30,000 THAI WILL BECOME UNEMPLOYED. THIS CAUSES US GRAVE CONCERN; THEREFORE SHOULD WITHDRAWALS BE CARRIED OUT SUDDENLY AND IN HUGE NUMBERS IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE WORK FOR THESE THAI. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE NOT TRYING TO USE DELAYING TACTICS TO PREVENT WITHDRAWALS. THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL. BUT WITHDRAWALS HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH PROPER TIMING.

FURTHERMORE, WE MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE SITUATION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ALSO. AS ALL OF YOU ALREADY KNOW, FIGHTING IS STILL CONTINUING IN SOME PARTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM, WHILE THERE IS NO CEASEFIRE AT ALL IN CAMBODIA YET. THEREFORE, WHAT REASON IS THERE FOR US TO BE WILLING TO BE AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN THE OTHER

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SIDE IS NOT WITHDRAWING. FOR INSTANCE, HANOI STILL REFUSES TO WITHDRAW FROM LAOS AND FROM CAMBODIA. EVERYBODY SAYS THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES ARE STILL STATIONED IN THIS REGION. SINCE THIS IS THE CASE, HOW CAN WE CARRY ON ONE-SIDED WITHDRAWALS? WE WOULD HAVE NO "BINDING FORCE" AT ALL WITH WHICH TO BARGAIN WITH THE OTHER SIDE. HOW CAN BARE HANDS FIGHT AGAINST WEAPONS? WITHDRAWALS MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY GRADUAL DEGREES.

MR. KISSINGER MADE A DEFINITE ASSERTION ON THIS SUBJECT A FEW DAYS AGO. AMBASSADOR KINTNER CAME TO INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO THAILAND'S REQUEST FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES, THAT IT HAS AGREED FOR THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN STEP BY STEP AND IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. BUT

DETAILS REGARDING WITHDRAWALS CANNOT BE DISCLOSED. WHEN  
A PLANE IS WITHDRAN WE ARE INFORMED OF ITS DESTINATION.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4156

INFO DIA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOTHING IS KEPT SECRET AND WE ARE INFORMED OF DETAILS IN  
FULL INCLUDING THE DESTINATION OF MILITARY FORCES THAT  
ARE WITHDRAWNFROM THAILAND, INCLUDING THE DESTINATION OF  
FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM UDON, FROM UTAPAO, AND ELSEWHERE.  
THIS PROVES CLEARLY THAT THE WITHDRAWALS ARE BEING CARRIED  
OUT IN AN ABOVEBOARD MANNER, WITH NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES  
BEHIND THEM AT ALL. IN ADDITION, MR. KISSINGER FURTHER  
SAID THAT IT IS UP TO THAILAND TO DECIDE WHETHER AMERICAN  
FORCES SHOULD REMAIN OR SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, BUT TO STUDY  
THE SITUATION CAREFULLY. WE MUST EXERCISE GREAT CARE.  
WHO CAN GUARANTEE THAT NOTHING WILL OCCUR? SUPPOSE YOU  
SHOULD WANT THE UNITED STATES TO PULL OUT COMPLETELY,  
DEMANDING IT TO SPEED UP COMPLETE WITHDRAWALS, THEN  
SHOULD TROUBLE OCCUR AGAIN, WHAT COULD WE DO? WOULDN'T  
WE HAVE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY? DEMANDS WERE MADE FOR IT TO

PULL OUT, SO WHAT COULD WE DO? WE HAVE NO B-52 AIRCRAFT  
AND NO UP-TO-DATE AIR FORCE. AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY  
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LIKE THAILAND IS NOT ABLE TO BUILD UP AN UP-TO-DATE AIR  
FORCE, BECAUSE IT IS NOT LIKE MAKING KITES. VERY HIGH  
TECHNIQUES HAVE TO BE USED. PLEASE FEEL SYMPATHY  
FOR OUR POSITION, WHICH CAN BE COMPARED TO US HAVING EXCELLENT  
INDIAN WATCHMEN TO PROTECT OUR HOUSE AGAINST THIEVES AND  
WE CANNOT FIND THAI WATCHMEN IN SUFFICIENT NUMBER AND  
WITH SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE YET. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD KEEP  
INDIAN WATCHMEN FOR THE TIME BEING. WHEN WE HAVE  
SUFFICIENT THAI WATCHMEN, THEN WE CAN USE THEM INSTEAD...  
AND AMERICA CAN PULL OUT.

A FACT I WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU IS THAT AMERICAN  
BASES ARE IN THAILAND TEMPORARILY ONLY, NOT PERMANENTLY,  
AND THAT THEY RE HERE FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY,  
FOR THAILAND TO BE SAFE FROM AN ENEMY FROM OUTSIDE.  
WHETHER THEY ARE WITHDRAWN OR NOT IS UP TO THAILAND.  
IF WE WANT THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN THEY WILL WITHDRAW; IF  
WE WANT THEM TO REMAIN THEY WILL REMAIN. THIS WAS STATED  
DEFINITELY, AND AMBASSADOR KINTNER FURTHER ASSERTED TO  
THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HE WAS PRESENT WHEN MR. KISSINGER  
MADE THAT STATEMENT. THEREFORE, WHEN IT IS SAID THAT THIS  
IS NOT TRUE, THAT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WAS  
MADE, WHEN A PERSON IN THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE  
MADE THAT STATEMENT CLEARLY HIMSELF, WHO CAN I BE EXPECTED  
TO BELIEVE?

REPORTER: DOESN'T THIS SHOW THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY  
DRAFTED IS BASED ON AND COMES FROM THE MILITARY?

CHATCHAI: NO. AMERICAN BASES ARE A DIFFERENT  
MATTER ALTOGETHER. WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW?

REPORTER: WHETHER AMERICA PLANS TO WITHDRAW OR NOT,  
OR WHAT ROLE IT PLAYS...

CHATCHAI: IT IS OURS ONLY. WE DON'T LISTEN TO  
ANYBODY AT ALL. AN EASY EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE CITED IS  
WHEN CUBA SEVERED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE LATTER SEVERED RELATIONS WITH IT ALSO. BUT WE DID  
NOT SEVER RELATIONS, AND THEY STILL EXIST TO THIS DAY.

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REPORTER: WHAT DOES THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HAVE TO SAY...

CHATCHAI: SINCE WE FORM PART OF THE SAME GOVERNMENT  
WE HAVE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS. WHO CAN GUARANTEE THAT  
ONCE AMERICAN FORCES ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN THAT  
AGRESSION WILLNOT BE COMMITTED AGAINST US?

REPORTER: A HUGE PART OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET GOES  
TO THAI ARMED FORCES. COULDN'T THEY OPPOSE AND REPEL  
AGRESSION?

CHATCHAI: I AM A MILITARY OFFICER IN THE RESERVE  
CORPS. WEAPONS ARE MOST EXPENSIVE AND I WISH TO SAY FRANKLY  
THAT SINCE THAILAND IS AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY IT IS  
NOT ABLE TO BUILD UP MODERN OR UP-TO-DATE ARMED FORCES.  
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IN ANCIENT TIMES, WE COULD GO INTO THE  
FORESTS AND CUT DOWN THE TREES IN ORDER TO MAKE SPEARS AND  
LANCES. BUT IN THIS PRESENT DAY, MODERN TECHNIQUES HAVE  
MADE PROGRESS BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS FAR AHEAD OF THAT.

REPORTER: DURING PAST YEARS WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED  
A FOREIGN POLICY THAT WAS WRONG, THUS BEING RESPONSIBLE  
FOR GREAT TROUBLE AND HARDSHIPS.

CHATCHAI: OH, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. FOREIGN  
POLICY IS REVISED AND CHANGED ALWAYS. THERE IS NO NEED  
FOR IT TO BE INFLEXIBLE. ON THE CONTRARY, IT MUST BE  
REVISED AND CHANGED TO COORDINATE WITH CHANGES AND  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD SITUATION. IT MUST BE CHANGED  
AND WE ARE CHANGING IT NOW. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE  
CHANGES MORE SPEEDILY BUT WE FEAR WE WOULD GO TOO FAR  
AHEAD ALONE. OUR POLICY HAS BEEN CHANGED CONSIDERABLY.  
FORMERLY WE DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE MUCH CHANGE TO IT, BUT  
NOW CONSIDERABLE CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE, AS CAN BE SEEN  
FROM THE FACT THAT WE CAN GO TO RED CHINA AND TO RUSSIA.  
EVEN PRINCESS GALYANI, THE KING'S SISTER, HAS VISITED  
MOSCOW AND A MOST WARM WELCOME WAS EXTENDED TO HER.  
EVERYTING IS CHANGING.

REPORTER: WHAT PRINCIPLE IS THERE?  
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CHATCHAI: THE PRINCIPLE WE ADHERE TO IS THAT IN  
WHATEVER ACTION WE MAY TAKE, THAILAND MUST SURVIVE.  
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING BUT IN ANY ACTION TAKEN THE MAIN  
PRINCIPLE WE ADHERE TO IS THAT THAILAND MUST SURVIVE.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

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